

Economic Aide Chosen For Disarmament Shift

By Edward T. Folliard
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President Kennedy yesterday moved to prepare the United States for dealing with any economic upheaval that might result from complete disarmament.

He announced his intention to appoint Archibald Stevens Alexander of New Jersey as Assistant Director of the Arms Control and Disarmament agency: Alexander would be

in charge of its Economic Bureau, a new \$20,000-a-year post in the New Frontier.

Alexander's job would be to concentrate on "the economic and social impacts of disarmament."

When it is considered that the United States spends close to \$50 billion a year on defense and that millions of Americans are engaged in working on missiles, aircraft guns, and other weapons of

war, the problem of shifting to a different kind of economy obviously would be a formidable one.

The consensus among those who have studied the problem is that the United States could make the transition without a depression or even a serious recession.

Doctrine in Doubt

Karl Marx always insisted that capitalism thrived only on profits of war or preparations for war. This doctrine went under a cloud of doubt after Soviet Premier Nikita S. Khrushchev visited the United States in 1959.

Said Khrushchev on Jan. 14, 1960, about his tour of this country:

"I had occasion to talk with many representatives of American business circles who . . . are confident that it is fully within the capacity of American industry to cope with the task of the changeover of the entire economy to the production of civilian goods."

A group of Western and Eastern economists, in a survey for the United Nations, said that there "should be no doubt that the diversion to peaceful purposes of the resources now in military use could be accomplished to the benefit of all countries and lead to the improvement of world economic and social conditions."

Not a Newcomer

Alexander, the man Mr. Kennedy has chosen to prepare the United States for the economic transition if disarmament comes, is not a newcomer in Washington. Familiarly known as "Archie," he held a number of posts here in the Truman Administration.

After serving as an officer in the Army in the Mediterranean and European theaters of war in 1942-45, he became a member of the Foreign Service Selection Board of the State Department in 1947. He was in the Army in 1949 and Under Secretary from 1950 to 1952.

Alexander, a big, strapping fellow, was born in New York City on Oct. 28, 1906. He got his A.B. from Princeton in 1928 and his LL.B. from Harvard in 1931. Admitted to the bar in 1932, he was a member, and ultimately a partner, in the law firm of Carter, Ledyard and Milburn.

Now a resident of Bernardsville, N. J., Alexander has held a number of civil and governmental posts in the Garden State. He is a Democrat, married, and the father of five children.